

What is claimed is:

1. An image pick-up unit comprising:
an image pick-up device; and
a plurality of optical filters which are cemented
5 together in layers and positioned in front of said image
pick-up device,

wherein at least two optical filters among said
plurality of optical filters, which have different
optical properties, are different in shape from each
10 other.

2. The image pick-up unit according to claim
1, wherein each optical filter of said plurality of
optical filters is asymmetrical with respect to a center
of said each optical filter.

15 3. The image pick-up unit according to claim
1, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed
so that general outer shapes thereof are geometrically
similar to each other,

wherein each optical filter of said plurality of
20 optical filters has at least four corners, each of which
is cut out by a predetermined amount, and

wherein each of said plurality of optical filters
is formed so that at least one of said four corners is
cut out by an amount different from an amount cutout of
25 each of remaining corners of said four corners.

4. The image pick-up unit according to claim
3, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed
so that general outer dimensions thereof are the same.

5. The image pick-up unit according to claim
5 1, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed
so that general outer shapes thereof are geometrically
similar to each other,

wherein each optical filter of said plurality of
optical filters has at least four corners each of which
10 is cut out by a predetermined amount, and

wherein each of said plurality of optical filters
except for at least one thereof is formed so that at least
one of said four corners is cut out by an amount different
from an amount cutout of each of remaining corners of
15 said four corners.

6. The image pick-up unit according to claim
5, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed
so that general outer dimensions thereof are the same.

7. The image pick-up unit according to claim
20 1, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed
so that general outer shapes thereof are geometrically
similar to each other, and

wherein each of said plurality of optical filters
comprises one of a projection and a recess on an outer
25 edge of said each optical filter which does not overlap

another optical filter of said plurality of optical filters when said plurality of optical filters are cemented together in layers.

8. The image pick-up unit according to claim 5 7, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed so that general outer dimensions thereof are the same.

9. The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed so that general outer shapes thereof are geometrically 10 similar to each other, and

wherein each of said plurality of optical filters except for at least one thereof includes one of a projection and a recess on an outer edge of said each optical filter which does not overlap another optical 15 filter of said plurality of optical filters when said plurality of optical filters are cemented together in layers.

10. The image pick-up unit according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of optical filters are formed 20 so that general outer dimensions thereof are the same.

11. The image pick-up unit according to claim 1, wherein an optical filter of said plurality of optical filters which is positioned closest to said image pick-up device comprises an infrared cut-off glass serving as 25 a cover glass for covering the front of said image pick-up

device to seal said image pick-up device, and
wherein each optical filter of said plurality of
optical filter except for said infrared cut-off glass
comprises an optical low-pass filter.

5 12. The image pick-up unit according to claim
11, wherein a rear surface of one of said plurality of
optical filters which is cemented to a front surface of
said infrared cut-off glass is coated with an optical
matched filter coating, and

10 wherein at least one surface of remaining surfaces
of said plurality of optical filters is coated with an
anti-reflection coating.

13. The image pick-up unit according to claim
11, wherein the length and width of each optical filter
15 of said plurality of optical filters, except for said
infrared cut-off glass, are one of equal to and less than
the length and width of said infrared cut-off glass,
respectively.

14. The image pick-up unit according to claim
20 11, wherein a thickness of each optical filter of said
plurality of optical filters, except for said infrared
cut-off glass, is one of equal to and less than
approximately 0.3mm, and

25 wherein outer dimensions of said plurality of
optical filters, except for said infrared cut-off glass,

decrease stepwise in a direction from said infrared cut-off glass toward a side from which incoming light is incident on said image pick-up device.

15. The image pick-up unit according to claim 11,
5 wherein each optical filter of said plurality of optical filters is made of one of the following birefringent glass materials: quartz, lithium niobate and lithium triborate.

16. The image pick-up unit according to claim
10 1, wherein said plurality of optical filters, which are cemented together in layers, are cemented to said image pick-up device.

17. The image pick-up unit according to claim
1, wherein each optical filter of said plurality of
15 optical filters is substantially rectangular in shape,
each of four corners of said each optical filter being
chamfered.

18. An image pick-up unit comprising:
an image pick-up device; and
20 a plurality of optical filters which are made of cemented layers of optical material, and positioned immediately in front of said image pick-up device,

wherein the length and width of at least one optical filter of said plurality of optical filters are
25 different from the length and width of another optical

filter of said plurality of optical filters.